

REMARKS

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated July 16, 2003. Claims 1, 3, 14, 15 and 20 have been amended, and claims 2, 18-19, 21 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the specification. The specification has been amended to overcome the objection.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. The drawings have been corrected, and the corrections are shown in red.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 14-15, 21-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 3, 14 and 15 have been amended. Claims 21 and 24 have been canceled. In claim 22, the limitation "the partially processed symbols" has an antecedent basis in the amended claim 20.

Claims 1, 6, 9-14, 17-20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dahlman et al. Claims 2, 4-5 and 7-8 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Examiner stated that claims 3, 15-16 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 21. Claims 18-19 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Thus, claims 1-23 distinguish over the art of record.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 6, 9-14, 17-20 and 24 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 16, 2003
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